

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-22 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 1-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Also by way of this reply, claims 23-36 have been added. Claims 23 and 30 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 23 and 30.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claims 23 – 36 have been added. No new matter has been added by way of these additions as support for these additions may be found, for example, in Figures 3C and 10, and in paragraphs [0059], [0073], and [0076] of the published specification.

Specification Amendments

Applicant respectfully asserts the replacement paragraph for paragraph [0060] of the published specification is in accordance with the Examiner's request. (*See* Office Action dated April 19, 2006 at page 2).

Oath/Declaration Objections

The Examiner objects to the oath or declaration for being defective. (*See* Office Action dated April 19, 2006 at page 2). A combined oath/declaration in compliance with 37 CFR §1.67(a) is attached to this reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the formal drawings filed on October 12, 2001 and indicate whether they are acceptable.

Claims Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 14-22 because they contain informalities. (*See* Office Action dated April 19, 2006 at page 2). By way of this reply, claims 14-22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 12-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. By way of this reply, claims 12-22 have been cancelled and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12, 13, and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,611,498 issued to Baker et al. (hereinafter "Baker"). By way of this reply, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12, 13, and 15-18 have been cancelled and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 8-11, 14, and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,938,722 (hereinafter "Johnson"). By

way of this reply, claims 3, 8-11, 14, and 19-22 have been cancelled and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

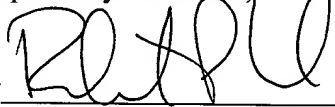
Applicant respectfully asserts that Baker and Johnson, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least the first thread, the second thread, the make-up of each thread and the communication between the threads using streams as recited in new independent claims 23 and 30. Accordingly, independent claim 23 and 30 are patentable over Baker and Johnson. Claims 24-29 and 31-36 depend, wither directly or indirectly, from claims 23 and 30, and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number: 16159/098001).

Dated: July 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA • LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments — Newly executed Oath/Declaration in compliance with 37 CFR §1.67